

Message Text

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53

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 SSO-00

INRE-00 /056 W

----- 027408

O R 071230Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9075

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GABORONE 2243

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BC

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT KHAMA RETURNS TO BOTSWANA

REF: GABORONE 2233 AND PREVIOUS

1. PRESIDENT KHAMA RETURNED TO GABORONE MORNING OF DEC. 7, FOLLOWING HIS MOST RECENT HOSPITALIZATION IN JOHANNESBURG. AS REPORTED IN REFTEL, HE UNDERWENT A SECOND OPERATION TO ADJUST THE STANBY PACEMAKER WHICH HAD BEEN IMPLANTED LAST MONTH.

2. WE DO NOT HAVE FUTHER INFORMATION ON THE STATE OF HIS HEALTH. IT MAY BE SIGNIFICANT, HOWEVER, THAT THIS TIME HIS RETURN WAS NOT A PUBLIC OCCASION; AND IN RESPONSE TO DCM'S QUERIES CONCERNING A DATE FOR THE AMBASSADOR'S PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIAL S MIN EXTAFF SECRETARY MPOTOKWANE INDICATED IT PROBABLY COULD NOT BE DONE THIS WEEK. ALTHOUGH EMPHASIZING THAT HE HAD NOT YET SEEN THE PRESIDENT AND THEREFORE COULD NOT JUDGE THE STATE OF HIS HEALTH, MPOTOKWANE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT KHAMA WOULD

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NOT HAVE TO UNDERGO ANY MORE SURGERY AND THAT HE WOULD NOW

HAVE SUFFICIENT TIME TO RECUPERATE FULLY.

3. WHETHER JUSTIFIED OR NOT, THERE HAS BEEN SOME PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON THE STATE OF THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH, WITH A CONSENSUS EMERGING THAT APPEARS TO FAVOR HIS ASSUMING A DECREASED WORK SCHEDULE, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING.

NORLAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GABORO02243
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760451-0867
From: GABORONE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761267/aaaacfo.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 GABORONE 2233
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <07 SEP 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT KHAMA RETURNS TO BOTSWANA
TAGS: PFOR, AMED, BC, (KHAMA, SERETSE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006